IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

- 1. (Currently Amended) An electrically driven power steering apparatus comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a ball screw shaft extending within said housing and connected to a steering mechanism;
 - an input shaft to which a steering force is inputted;
 - an output shaft for receiving the steering force from said input shaft and outputting the steering force to said ball screw shaft;
 - a torque sensor for detecting a torque transferred between said input shaft and said output shaft;
 - a motor including a rotor; and
 - a ball screw nut for giving a force in an axial direction to said ball screw shaft by receiving a rotational force from said motor,
 - wherein said ball screw shaft is supported by the nut only, and
 - wherein an a deformable elastic member deforming and thus capable of absorbing an impact inputted from the side of said ball screw shaft, is disposed on a power transmission route between said ball screw shaft and said rotor of said motor, and
 - wherein said ball screw nut is displaced only in a rotational direction, in accordance with the elastic deformation of said elastic member.
- 2. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is disposed between said ball screw nut and said rotor of said motor, and
 - the impact inputted from the side of said ball screw shaft is absorbed by a torsional damper effect.

3. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a displacement limiter for limiting a predetermined or larger quantity of deformation of said elastic member is provided and constructed of a recessed portion formed in one of said rotor of said motor and said ball screw nut and a protruded portion formed on the other, and

said protruded portion, when said elastic member deforms by the predetermined quantity, engages with said recessed portion.

4. - 13. (Cancelled)

- 14. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is attached to a core metal.
- 15. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is formed from a rubber or a resin.
- 16. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is provided with at least a flange portion and a protrusion.
- 17. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is provided with engaging portions alternatively extending axially.

- 18. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a diameter of said elastic member is less than a diameter of the nut.
- 19. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a member transmitting a torque through said elastic member extends along the axial direction of the nut.
- 20. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said torque sensor detects a torsion of said torsion bar connecting between the input shaft and the output shaft.
- 21. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is provided at only one side of the ball screw nut.
- 22. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ball screw nut is directly supported by said housing.
- 23. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ball screw nut and said rotor are supported by at least one bearing.